

# TRACKS OF TIME

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 19 – Number 8

August 2017

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> in the meeting room of the *Zephyrhills Public Library*, 5347 8<sup>th</sup> Street. The business meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. and the program is at 6 p.m. Refreshments include drinks, which are provided, and food brought in to share by members.

## Speakers



Shelbie Pollock and Sarah Duffy were our speakers at the August meeting. They talked a bit about their semester as students in Spain, but they spent most of their time sharing with us pictures and stories from the month they spent travelling all around Europe before heading back to the United States. Sarah's dad, Cole Duffy, joined the ladies during this part of their trip and appeared to have had a wonderful time, based on the pictures shown. Shelbie, you may recall, received a thousand-dollar scholarship from our organization when she graduated from ZHS two years ago. She received an additional five-hundred-dollar check this night. It was a special night.

Victoria DeGeorge, curator of the Depot Museum, will be our speaker at the September meeting. She's been asked to share information about the recent work done on behalf of the Zephyrhills Public Library to have the Zephilsco yearbooks digitized. The work has been completed of the years we had available, and Victoria will share some of the pictures with us as well as demonstrating how to navigate the material. At the present time the material is not available online, but we have some ideas on how this could be accomplished. Time will tell. We are confident it will be an enjoyable evening, so we hope you'll join us.

**Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, is our next Give-Back Scholarship Fundraiser**  
at **Sergio's Italian Restaurant** on Hwy. 54 West in **Zephyrhills**. We are meeting at 4 p.m.  
Contact Patty Thompson (813-780-8559 – [pattycakeclown1@aol.com](mailto:pattycakeclown1@aol.com)) for information.



## E54 SELF STORAGE

38461 County Road 54  
Zephyrhills, FL 33542

813-788-5969

5x5 | 5x10 | 10x10 | 10x15 | 10x20 | 20x20 | RV | BOAT

## Jeff Miller Pasco County Historian

For a walk down memory lane visit  
[www.fivay.org](http://www.fivay.org)

Please consider contributing old photos for the  
website.

My email address is on the opening page

### ZHA Mission Statement

The mission of the Zephyrhills Historical Association is to research, gather, and share local historical information with all generations, through our literature, programs, and scholarships, and to volunteer assistance to the Zephyrhills Depot Museum and WWII Barracks Museum.

| <u>Executive Board</u> |       |                 |
|------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| President              | ..... | Rod Rehrig      |
| Vice President         | ..... | Jerry Pricher   |
| Secretary              | ..... | Anna Boone      |
| Treasurer              | ..... | Clereen Brunty  |
| <u>Board Members</u>   |       |                 |
| Tenci Alexander        |       |                 |
| Polly Gill             |       |                 |
| Bill Kustes            |       |                 |
| Patty Thompson         |       |                 |
| <u>Committees</u>      |       |                 |
| Ads for Tracks         | ..... | Clereen Brunty  |
| Hospitality            | ..... | Tenci Alexander |
| Refreshments           | ..... | Polly Gill      |
| Newsletter             | ..... | Jerry Pricher   |
|                        |       | Clereen Brunty  |
| Programs               | ..... | Jerry Pricher   |
|                        |       | Carolyn Dean    |
| Scholarship            | ..... | Margie Partain  |
|                        |       | Jerry Pricher   |
| Archivist              | ..... | Louie Holt      |

**Boardwalk Boosters**

Clereen Brunty  
 Michael Cockill  
 Carolyn Dean  
 Gina King Granger  
 Greg First  
 Jackie & Terry Lindsey  
 Andrew Nagy  
 Rod & Carol Rehrig  
 Margaret Seppanen

**Scholarship Boosters**

George & Anna Boone  
 Clereen Brunty  
 Elsie Burgess  
 Michael Cockill  
 Maryhelen Clague  
 Carolyn Dean  
 Polly Gill  
 Gina King Granger  
 Thea Johnson  
 Connie Kirkland  
 Bill Kustes  
 Anne Mester  
 Dr. Richard Moore  
 Margie Partain  
 Jerry Pricher  
 Linda Sante  
 Margaret Seppanen

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP**

|                   |                   |                 |                 |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Tenci Alexander   | Michael Cockill   | Val Hiatt       | Rick Moore      | Kim Sanders       |
| Raymond Alvarez   | Richard Crouch    | Beverly Holmes  | Dale Myers      | Mary Ann Sanders  |
| Darlene Bamberger | Carolyn Dean      | Louie Holt      | Andrew Nagy     | Tim Sanders       |
| Beverly Barnett   | Irene Dobson      | Thea Johnson    | Peggy Panak     | Linda Sante       |
| Elaine Benjamin   | Vicki Elkins      | James Kaylor    | Margie Partain  | Jason Sasser      |
| Art Besinger      | Greg First        | Jean Kaylor     | Dusty Perkins   | Margaret Seppanen |
| John Bolender     | Gail Geiger       | Connie Kirkland | Nancy Perkins   | Steve Spina       |
| Anna Boone        | Nathan Geiger     | Bill Kustes     | Bob Porter      | Al Stone          |
| George Boone      | Judy Gibson       | Jackie Lindsey  | Penny Porter    | Patty Thompson    |
| Clereen Brunty    | Polly Gill        | Terry Lindsey   | Jerry Pricher   | Steve Turner      |
| Elsie Burgess     | Gina King Granger | Emilie Mastin   | Carol Rehrig    | Terry Turner      |
| Kathy Burnside    | Lyden Green       | Anne Mester     | Rodney Rehrig   | Dave Walters      |
| Rosemary Carrigg  | Sue Green         | Jeff Miller     | Sharon Reisman  | Buck Winslow      |
| Vera Chenkin      | Betty Hall        | Barb Moore      | Jim Ryals       | Ernie Wise        |
| Maryhelen Clague  | Rex Hiatt         | Dr. Rick Moore  | Tammy Kay Ryman | Madonna Wise      |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  <p><b>Clereen Morrill Brunty</b><br/>                 ZHS Alumni Contact<br/> <b>clereen@tampabay.rr.com</b><br/> <b>813-782-8763</b></p> |  <p><b>chalet flowers</b><br/>                 Kim Tim  Maryann Sanders<br/>                 owners<br/>                 Ph: 813-788-2874<br/>                 chaletflowersfl.com<br/>                 5002 7th Street<br/>                 Zephyrhills, FL 33542</p> |
|---|--|

Editor: Jerry Pricher, 5138 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Zephyrhills, FL 33542  
 Phone: 813-788-2547 email: jerry@pricher.net

**Feature Article**

**PASCO PIONEERS — THE STANLEYS**  
*by Madonna Jervis Wise & Ernest Wise*

We were reminded of southern hospitality at its best and the graciousness of community, when we visited with the Stanley family on Saturday, July 21, 2015, at the home of Roscoe “Rocky” and Theresa “Lou” Stanley at 4-Bar Ranch, on Ryals Road. They are descendants of early pioneers to Pasco County. We met with **Lillie Eva Sapp Stanley, Marco Edward Stanley, and Roscoe “Rocky” Stanley**, and had the opportunity to learn about their family through stories, photographs and artifacts.





Ernie and Madonna Wise are researching Wesley Chapel (otherwise known as Godwin, Double Branch, Gatorville, Lemon, and Westley), for a book which will be published in 2016. Numerous articles as well as Rosemary Trottman’s history discuss the Wesley Chapel pioneer families and their comradery. *By 1850...the Osburns, Kerseys, Bradleys, Hills and Stanleys had settled along the stage route*, said Trottman.



Marco Edward Stanley has completed in-depth family genealogical research. In addition the family has hands-on knowledge of the economic and social history of the area that was home to settlers known for their farming, lumbering, charcoal, gator hunting, turpentine, and moonshine. ‘Marco’ related that the families were connected via marriage, so one cannot study the Stanley family without learning about the names of Gillette, Smith, Godwin, Wells and the list goes on and on. With large families, a spouse came from neighboring families so it is no wonder that in

the Stanley family tree or for that matter, any of the other family trees in Wesley Chapel, you will find the key pioneer names as well. Hard work and family permeated the lives of these frontiersmen.

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  <p>Gina King Granger<br/>                 Social Media &amp; Digital Marketing Strategist<br/>                 (813) 602-1818<br/>                 PO Box 1718 Zephyrhills FL 33539<br/>                 gina@offthechartmedia.com</p> | <p><i>Artistic Expressions</i><br/>                 5906 7th Street<br/>                 Zephyrhills, Florida 33542<br/>                 813 783-7731</p>  <p>Custom picture framing<br/>                 Prints Needlework Photos Paintings<br/>                 Computer photo editing</p> <p>Beverly Koehler Barnett, Owner      aeframer@gmail.com</p> |
|--|--|




Lillie Eva Sapp Stanley is the lovely, vital matriarch of the family at age 95 and as all agree, she is “sharp as a tack.” Lillie and her twin sister, Willie Neva, were born February 8, 1920 in Georgia. Her family relocated to Polk County when she was a toddler, and she was reared on her family’s farm with chickens, cows and various crops. Lillie met and married Marco Stanley in the decade of the 1940s and they lived in Wesley Chapel. When asked what was most important to share about the Wesley Chapel area, Lillie explained that it was a *true community where everyone helped each other, went to church and just pitched in to mentor the children and take care of each other...A TRUE COMMUNITY*. She described the schoolhouse of Wesley Chapel with two rooms, one for the lower grades and another for the upper grades through grade 8. She recalled members of the pioneer families with recollections of the character of the people, careful to share their kindnesses and contributions.



Lillie also shared that Hazel Weaver Stanley, wife of Roscoe Napoleon Stanley, was a ‘school bus driver’ in her own Model “A” Ford. Unlike today, she was paid per head for transporting the pupils to school. This included neighborhood children along with their own children, Raymond, Francis, Keith and Shirley.

The first of the Stanleys to arrive was William Sebron Standley and his wife, Fannie Bradley Standley. They settled near Gatorville after the Civil War. He spelled his name as Standley and the ‘D’ was later dropped by other family members. They lived between St. Joe and Godwin. William Sebron Standley’s son, Lewis Napoleon Stanley, had his homestead on Tupper Road across from what is now Saddlebrook.

Allegiances in the Wesley Chapel area were for both the confederacy and the union during this period. Marco Edward Stanley, said, “My Great-Great Grandfather was William Sebron Standley, who is buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery in Dade City. He married Captain Robert Duke Bradley’s daughter. Frances.”

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  <p><b>Garage Doors, Inc.</b><br/>Sales &amp; Service</p> <p><b>Kerry Ryman</b><br/>President</p> <p>36413 SR 54 • Zephyrhills, Florida 33541<br/>Telephone: 813-782-5926 • Fax: 813-788-6773<br/>E-mail: kerry@rymanconstruction.com<br/>License # GDI 09084</p>  |  <p><b>ARMY STRONG</b><br/><i>Airborne-Ranger, "All The Way"</i></p> <p><b>MICHAEL J. COCKILL</b><br/>Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)</p> <p>8469 Maybelle Dr. (352) 596-9751 (h)<br/>Weeki Wachee, FL 34613 (352) 584-0758 (m)<br/>mcockill@tampabay.rr.com</p> <p>ZHS JROTC Bulldog Battalion, GO FOR IT!</p> |
|--|---|

Bradley was known for the leadership in the Bradley Massacre (May 5, 1856) whose commemorative monument is in Darby. Lewis Napoleon Stanley and his brother, Walter Raleigh Stanley dropped the “D” in Stanley. Walter R. Stanley is buried next to his dad at Mt. Zion, Cemetery. Lewis and Raleigh (Rollie) are buried in Holton Cemetery on McKendree Road in Wesley Chapel.

Marco has located William Standley’s Confederate Pension, which states that he was captured by the union army in Murfreesboro, Tennessee and imprisoned in an Ohio POW camp. Marco explained that William was a loyal confederate through and through, as evidenced by his pension document that recalls he was ‘involuntarily’ forced to state his allegiance to the union, while in the POW Camp.

Although William Sebron Stanley was the first to settle in Pasco County, the family settled for some time in Alachua County and were originally from Ireland. Through Marco’s extensive research, he discovered the Standley Family Cemetery near the Hague Community, around what was originally the county seat of Alachua County, Newnansville, which has recently been scanned for descendants using the ground penetrating technology to discover the burial of several ancestors.



Marco Edward and Roscoe “Rocky” are first cousins. Their dads were brothers, Marco Stanley (1921-1966) and Roscoe (1918-2003); sons of Raleigh “Rollie” Stanley and his wife, Malinda Jane Gillett who was a midwife in Wesley Chapel. In regard to lineage, Grandfather Raleigh “Rollie” parents were Lewis Napoleon Stanley and Mary Alice Tomberlin. Lewis was a son of the founding family, William Sebron Standley and Frances C. Bradley. Grandfather Raleigh lived at the end of Smith Road in Wesley Chapel.

Roscoe “Rocky” Stanley, son of Roscoe, shared a variety of photos and artifacts from the family including some of his Uncle Luther Smith’s items. Okay, how does Uncle Luther fit in...another example of the interconnectedness of the Wesley Chapel community? Well, Daniel H. Smith born in 1870 was married to Elizabeth Frances Geiger, daughter of John Adam Geiger and Eliza Jane Carroll. Daniel and Elizabeth’s son, Luther, married Louneta Stanley, daughter of Lewis and Mary Alice Stanley.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WATSON CLINIC</b> <small>LLP</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dermatology at Zephyrhills</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rick L. Moore, M.D.</b><br/>Dermatology</p> <p>6901 Medical View Lane<br/>Zephyrhills, Florida 33542<br/>www.WatsonClinic.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Office: 813-788-7867<br/>Fax: 813-783-7187</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">In Memory of</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ryals Furniture Exchange</b><br/>And Great Parents<br/><b>Powell &amp; Maude Ryals</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">From son James</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>God Bless America</b></p> |
|--|--|



Luther served in the cavalry in World War I. Rocky has his uncle Luther's cavalry saddle and military saddlebags, and they are in great condition. The family is very proud of his service

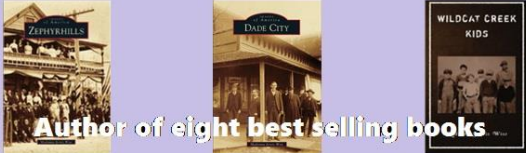
The branding iron from the Stanley's depicts the brand used by the family and Rocky explained the marking system that the family used. Rocky is proud of his father's spurs that also hang in his family room over an

impressive set of horns harvested from a range steer that was quite exemplary. Traditions continue as Rocky is proud that he and his wife have continued the tradition of giving a heifer to each grandchild so they can earn money for their education and future through the breeding and selling of the livestock...a tradition that teaches responsibility.

They are also particularly proud of their Cousins Bill Smith and Ruth Smith Adams who both are accomplished historians. Their family generously donated the log cabin built by Daniel H. Smith to the historical exhibit on the Florida Fairgrounds known as *Cracker Country*. The Smiths have spent considerable time at the exhibit telling stories and answering questions about the cabin and frontier Florida.

An iconic story of Wesley Chapel is that of Margaret "Maggie" Gillett Keen, daughter of James Horace Gillett and Zelin Grantham Gillett. So we inquired about this legendary story. Maggie's name has been mentioned frequently, and many a story has been shared about the gal who lived at the end of Smith Road in Wesley Chapel. Sometimes referred to as the 'bag lady' because of her rustic attire and rough-hewn mannerisms, she was a hard working frontier woman. She was self-sufficient and was known for walking into Zephyrhills from Wesley Chapel once a week. Rocky said, 'She was a good shot.' Lillie Stanley pointed out that Maggie was an intelligent gal who had an education but when married, had lost a young baby and never recovered emotionally from the loss. Lillie pointed out that Maggie was misunderstood and showed her empathy and kindness as she spoke of her. Lillie said, she often got into mild skirmishes with Wiregrass Porter over the ownership of the roaming hogs. Marco Stanley said, Wiregrass *knew just how far to push Maggie*.

The Stanley family believe the name, Gatorville originated from the frequent gator hunting and or bayheads where gators were prevalent.

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  <p><b>Author of eight best selling books</b></p> <p><b>Madonna Wise Books</b><br/> <b>Author, Research &amp; Consulting</b><br/>         Madonna Jervis Wise<br/>         Zephyrhills, Florida<br/>         Murphy, North Carolina</p> <p><b>813-469-8627</b><br/>         MadonnaJWise@gmail.com<br/> <a href="http://madonnawisebooks.wordpress.com">http://madonnawisebooks.wordpress.com</a></p> | <p><b>Joni Gauger</b><br/>owner</p> <p><b>Cutting Edge Beauty Salon</b></p> <p>813-782-4001<br/>         cell 813-469-3437</p> <p>6132 Ft. King Rd.<br/>         Zephyrhills, FL.</p> |
|--|---|

Fast forward to 2015, and the cohesive Stanley family is proud of their frontier history. Their family was recognized as a founding family at the 1998 dedication of the courthouse, and has an array of wonderful artifacts and family photos. We enjoyed a demonstration from both Rocky and Marco of the ‘cracker whips,’ that they definitely know how to pop! This family is most definitely a treasure in the history of Wesley Chapel and Pasco County.



**From the desk of the Editor:**

I greatly appreciate Madonna and Ernie Wise sharing this material with us. I plan to present more in time. Be prepared, however, because some of the articles are lengthy and will have to be shared over multiple newsletters. I think it’s worth it. Wesley Chapel is probably more associated with North Tampa these days than with Zephyrhills, but that was not always the case. The change that has taken place in just my lifetime is hard to believe. I’m sure you folks know what I mean.

Jeff Miller shares what’s written on the historical plaque for Wesley Chapel at [fivay.org](http://fivay.org):

**WESLEY CHAPEL**

The pioneer Boyett(e), Gillett(e), Godwin, and Kersey families received land grants in the area in the 1840s. The real influx of settlers, however, began around the War Between the States when the Stanleys and Coopers arrived. Originally called Double Branch for the twin creeks that flowed across the Boyette land, the community was named for the Methodist chapel that stood on the northwest corner of SR 54 and Boyette Road. A popular nickname for the area was Gatorville.

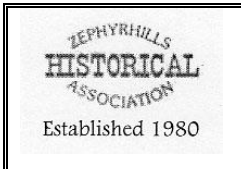
Since its founding in 1878, the Double Branch Baptist Church (now the First Baptist Church) has served as a focus for community life. The church has had three buildings in its long history. Henry Ryals was pastor in the first building in 1880, Ed Bryant the second in 1935, and Lynn Foster the third in 1970.

The turpentine still and sawmill represented early industries, though cattle ranching and hog farming on the then open range, crop farming, and citrus growing predominated.

When times were hard people turned to charcoal making and even moonshining to survive. Construction of I-75 and the 1979 opening of the Saddlebrook Resort marked the beginning of the current growth of the community.



*Plaque of Appreciation presented to Sergio’s Italian Restaurant*



## ZEPHYRHILLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

### BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2017

The August 1, 2017 meeting of the Zephyrhills Historical Association was called to order by President Rod Rehrig at 5:30 P.M. He led in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

The minutes from the June meeting were read by Secretary Anna V. Boone, with a motion to accept by Clereen Brunty, seconded by Terry Lindsey and agreed to by the group.

The Treasurer's Reports from June and July were read by Treasurer Clereen Brunty.

A motion was made by Jerry Pricher to accept the reports as read, seconded by Patty Thompson and approved.

New member Connie Kirkland introduced herself. She is known to many, having attended and graduated from Zephyrhills High School.

Old Business: Regarding Scholarship Fundraisers, Patty reported that the Association gained \$90 from the July event at Sergio's. They will be closed at the end of August so we will have our next Fundraiser there in September on the 26th. Flyers were passed out and are good for that date from 11 A.M. - 9 P.M. though we generally meet as a group at 4 P.M.

President Rod Rehrig, on behalf of the Zephyrhills Historical Association, presented a plaque to Leah, owner of Sergio's, in appreciation for her support of our Fundraising efforts. A photo of the presentation was brought in to the meeting for all to see. In addition, Patty gave Leah a thank you note as well as one each to Beef O'Brady's, Mike's Smokehouse and Fresh Country Café. There was some discussion about whether or not to go to Sergio's every month and would we "wear out our welcome?" Patty said Leah loves for us to come there, so for now we will continue.

Other Old Business: There was discussion regarding our use of the east 54 mini storage unit. The new owner has agreed to let us continue using it and there are two keys. Clereen has one and the other is at the Depot in the cash box.

Terry Lindsey has seen about the Depot, which is supposed to reopen this month. The ZHS yearbooks have been digitalized and Victoria, the Librarian, will be at the September ZHA meeting to discuss it.

New Business: Sharon Reisman reported that Founders' Day will be a bigger event next year, and run by the City of Zephyrhills. There will still be a parade.

Clereen Brunty announced SATURDAY IN THE SQUARE to be held in downtown Zephyrhills on August 26 from 5 - 8 P.M. There will be merchants, music and food and our organization can table there and present information on the Zephyrhills Historical Association.

Rod Rehrig made an announcement regarding the September 11 ceremony at Zephyr Park featuring the Marine Corps League. There will be a VFW Honor Guard, speakers and a 21 Gun Salute.

Other New Business: Clereen talked about the member profiles and she distributed forms for members to fill out to give a little bio of themselves.

There are 6 people with birthdays in August, including Patty. She selected Golden Corral. We will meet there at 3:45 P.M. on Friday, August 11. Rod will try to get us the room off the side.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jerry, seconded by Terry and agreed to.

Respectfully submitted, Anna V. Boone, Secretary, Zephyrhills Historical Association

The guest speakers for the evening are Shelbie Pollock and Sarah Duffy, who will talk and present slides about their recent stay as students in Spain and sight seeing trips in various European countries.